by an Irish Author

Wool

REMARKS

On the ENGLISH

Woollen Manufactury

FOR

EXPORTATION,

AND

Neceſſity of Preventing the IRISH WOOL being Run.

As Preſented at the Door of both Houſes of PARLIAMENT.

LONDON:

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REMARKS

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FOR

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AND

More effectually preventing the Woollen
being Run.

As Proposed at the Door of both Houses of
PARLIAMENT.

LONDON:

The Engliſh *Woollen Manufacturers Remarks, humbly offered on the preſent declining State of their Trade for Exportation, and the Neceſſity there is of preventing the* Iriſh *Wool being run.*

TRADE being the grand Source of *Great Britain*'s Wealth and Power, and that Branch moſt eminently ſo, that exports moſt of her native Produce, when manufactured, this Kingdom being not only enriched by the Treaſure imported, but alſo by the Value of our Labour and Art, in the various Manufacturies exported, eſpecially our Woollen, as it is our native Wealth, is ſo much clear Gains.

Trade in general does now evidently feel the Effects of a long and gradual Decay, in our Woollen Trade for Exportation, as the Woollen Manufacturies abroad have took Place, which is evidently owing unto their getting the *Iriſh* Wool, and not only working it up, but with it alſo great Quantities of their own Wool, (intermixing it with the *Iriſh*) into *Engliſh* like Goods, much cheaper than *England* can.

Therefore, as it is now this Trading Kingdom's abſolute Intereſt, not only to find Means to enlarge our Manufacturies for Exportation, and thereby Trade in general, but alſo to ſecure from our Rivals our Woollen Trade in particular; eſpecially conſidering how our induſtrious Merchants have extended it, and how enriching, and the grand Wheel of *England*'s great Machine of Trade, that gives Motion to every other Branch; and ſo much eaſier to prevent, than recal Trade back when loſt.

Pleaſe

Pleaſe to Obſerve,

THAT notwithſtanding *Great Britain* can't prevent her Rivals from ſetting up, and carrying on their Woollen Manufacturies, in their own Dominions, yet ſhe can (by way of Self-preſervation) by keeping her own and the *Iriſh* Wool at home, for her home Manufacturing, prevent thoſe Manufacturies from doing our Trade any great Damage.

That as it is a ſtanding Maxim in Trade, that neat and cheap Goods command the Markets, ſo it is eminently in the Woollen Manufacturies; that proper Wool, adapted to the Sort of Goods made, is abſolutely neceſſary to the producing of neat Goods, as low-price Labour is to cheap Goods.

That *England* and *Ireland* are in a peculiar manner bleſt with Wool, that is in its native Goodneſs and Staple, adapted unto the making of the various Sorts of Woollen Goods.

That other Parts of *Europe* have alſo great Quantities of Wool, yet very little that is adapted to the making of neat Goods, it being very ſhort or courſe, of a hairy harſh Nature.

That in Neighbouring Countries, where Woollen Manufacturies are carried on, Labour, by Means of their Way of living, is much cheaper than in *England.*

That the Wages of the *Engliſh* Poor, have through Neceſſity been lowering for Years, and although now ſo low, as to half ſtarving, yet not low enough for our Merchants to buy, as they may ſell abroad as cheap as their Rivals, notwithſtanding we ſell twenty *per Cent.* cheaper on an Avarage than we could, Goodneſs for Goodneſs, Years paſt.

That

That lowering our *Britiſh* Labour, is ſinking ſo much of our native Wealth, yet at preſent of abſolute Neceſſity, to prevent our Trade from being loſt, therefore worthy the Wiſdom of Parliament to find a Redreſs.

That it is evidently declared, by the ſtrict Laws made, to prevent the *Iriſh* as well as *Engliſh* Wool from being run to our Rivals, that our *Britiſh* Parliaments have always been of Opinion, that effecting it would be of the greateſt Advantage unto the Welfare of our Woollen Trade for Exportation, and Trade in general.

That 'tis fully demonſtrated, by the great Charge and Riſk *England*'s Rivals run, in getting the *Iriſh* Wool, that as they do not need it for Quantity, having Wool of their own, 'tis for Quality, without which they cannot work up their own, into ſuch Goods that they rival *England* in.

That 'tis impoſſible the *Engliſh* Woollen Trade for Exportation can revive, or even not ſtill decline, notwithſtanding the great Bleſſing of Peace, if the *Iriſh* Wool is not prevented being run.

That it cannot be for *England*'s Intereſt to prevent her own Wool being run, and not the *Iriſh* alſo; and notwitſtanding little or no *Iriſh* Wool is now imported, yet the Price of *Engliſh* Wool is (although it is ſomething advanc'd on the *South-Sea* Company's Trading again) ſtill low.

That the Quantity of Wool now run out of *Ireland*, is very great, it having been increaſing ever ſince ſo great a Stop has been in *England*, and 'tis evident the Loſs thereby to *England* in her Trade is not ſmall, was the Quantity run no more than fifteen or twenty thouſand Packs yearly, as ſome wonld perſwade.

That

That one Pack of Wool in *England*, worth ten Pounds, does make forty Pounds worth of white Woollen Goods, and thoſe Goods on an Avarage does coſt the Dying, *&c.* and fitting for Exportation, twenty Pounds, which makes it ſixty Pounds worth of Goods, fit to be exported.

That as ten Pounds worth of Wool, does by Manufacturing, *&c.* give *England* a Profit of fifty Pounds, 'tis evident, that exporting thoſe Goods, by employing our Shipping, and by the Returns made our Merchants, and Duty paid his Majeſty, with the general Gains in Trade, by the Money firſt being circulated, and Trade in general promoted, cannot give a leſs additional Profit.

That *England*'s preſent Loſs, by the *Iriſh* Wool being run, as being prevented thereby manufacturing it, is ſtill greater, as every Pack run does enable the Foreigners to work up with it, two or more of their own Wool, by which the *Engliſh* Farmer is robb'd of ſelling two Packs, and this Kingdom of manufacturing, and exporting when in Goods, three Packs, which is evidently the ſole Cauſe of the preſent Decay of our Trade, and low Price on our Wool.

That to add ſtill to our Loſs, many of our Manufacturers are ſunk in the World, their Branches of Trade that was valuable, and employed great Numbers of Hands, almoſt loſt, by which great Numbers of our Poor are un-employ'd, and become a publick Charge, to the great Increaſe of our Pariſh Rates, which is a treble Loſs, inſtead of two Shillings earnt, one is gave.

That at preſent, the Intereſt of *England* and *Ireland*, as to their Wool, does very much differ, as 'tis *England*'s abſolute Intereſt, that none

of

of her own nor *Iriſh* Wool be run; but that all, more than *Ireland*'s own home Conſumption does call for, be manufactured in *England* for Exportation; but 'tis *Ireland*'s preſent Intereſt, that all her Wool, more than ſhe manufactures her ſelf, (not all for home Conſumption) be run, rather than exported to *England* in Wool.

That all *Iriſh* Wool exported to *England*, does pay a Duty in *Ireland*, of upwards one Penny *per* Pound, which is 20 *per Cent.* as their Wool has been generally ſold, at ſeven Shillings *per* Stone, tho' now at ten; and alſo there is a Duty on all *Iriſh* Woollen Yarn imported, of upwards one Penny *per* Pound, paid in *England*, beſides what it pays as Wool in *Ireland*.

1 d. per Pound in Ireland. 20 p C.

That the Laws now in force, that have put ſo great a Stop to running Wool in *England*, have not, nor will not in *Ireland*, not ſuiting that open Kingdom nor Tradeſmen, that finds ſo much greater Gains by running it, than ſelling it to *England* in Wool does produce, either to themſelves or Poor.

That as no People are more faithful to what they deem their Intereſt, 'tis much feared, that no Law will put a Stop to running Wool in *Ireland*, but ſuch that will, in executing, point out the Agreſſor, and alſo make the common People as well as Tradeſmen, ſee it their Intereſt to become ſubſervient with their Wool, to the Intereſt of the *Engliſh* Wollen Trade for Exportation.

That taking off the ſaid Duty on the *Iriſh* Wool, will not introduce it into *England* cheaper than now, the Price in *Ireland* advancing as the Duty is taken off; but it would be a very great Means to induce the *Iriſh* Traders to think it their Intereſt to put in force ſuch Laws our Parliament

liament may find needful, to prevent its being run, as *England* will be 20 *per Cent.* a better Market than now, and their Gains will not be *England*'s Loſs.

That proper Spining, adapted to the various Sorts of Woollen Goods made, is the moſt eſſential Part of Manufactury, in making of neat Goods, as cheap Spining is in cheap Goods, which Money earnt by our *Engliſh* Spiners, is now the deareſt earnt of any, in the whole Manufacturing.

That Numbers of the *Iriſh* Poor are now employed by their Clandeſtine Traders, in fiting their Wool for running, a great Part being firſt comb'd, and ſome ſpun, and ſkrew'd into Caſks, *&c.* to be the more portable; and every Pack run, robs *England*'s Poor of Manufacturing three, which would fully employ them to much more Advantage than bare Spining does.

That taking off the Duty on *Iriſh* Woollen Yarn imported, thereby incouraging the *Iriſh* Poor in ſpinning a Part of the Wool now run, into white Yarn for *England*, as now for *England*'s Rivals, and to do it in ſuch a Method, as would be much more for the Advantage of *England*'s Manufacturers, than what now ſpun and imported is; and inſtead of leſſening either the Price or Labour, of our *Engliſh* Poor, be an abſolute Means, by the great Increaſe of Trade, fully to employ them, though ſo numerous, much more to their own and Kingdom's Advantage, than bare Spining can.

That there is an abſolute Neceſſity to make our Woollen Goods cheaper, yet as neat and good in its ſorts as now, and ſinking our Poor yet lower, is ſinking our native Wealth; therefore turning the *Iriſh* low Labour (as they do

and

and can live cheaper) for us, as 'tis now againſt us, would be bringing more Wealth into our Kingdom, and alſo enabling our Manufacturers at once to cope with their Rivals in Price, as they always will in Neatneſs, if we keep our Wool at home, and a ſure Means to turn the whole Biaſs of *Ireland* in our Favour, for now 'tis their Intereſt to run their Wool, but then to execute ſuch Laws as may be made abſolutely to prevent it, and to conſult the Intereſt of the *Engliſh* Woollen Manufactury for Exportation, as 'tis *England*'s to conſult the Intereſt of the *Iriſh* Linnen Manufactury for Exportation.

That notwithſtanding 'tis Trade that gives this Iſland ſo great a Name, and our general Intereſt to ſupport it, yet too many have but a ſlight Value for Trade, although 'tis evident, if we only trace this Kingdom, much more if we look into others, that 'tis the Number of Inhabitants, and thoſe employ'd by our Manufacturies, (and none more than our Woollen) for Exportation, that gives ſo great a Value to our Lands, and pays their Rents.

That as 'tis generally agreed, our Woollen Trade is greatly declined, as the Woollen Manufacturies abroad have took Place, that our Woollen Goods is ſunk in Price 20 *per Cent.* yet not low enough to preſerve our Trade; that great Numbers of our Poor, for want of Employ, are become a great Charge on our Pariſhes; that our Wool is ſtill very low; a Redreſs is now of abſolute Neceſſity.

That taking off the Duty on the ſaid Wool and Yarn, and turning the *Iriſh* low Labour in *England*'s Favour, would not only make them that are now employ'd for *England*'s Rivals, ſee it their Intereſt that ſuch a Law be executed,

but even the whole Kingdom (the Clandeſtine Traders excepted) aſiſt therein, and conſult the Intereſt of *England*, as to her Woollen Manufactury for Exportation, which at once would enable *England*, not only to continue a living Price to her Poor, but alſo fully employ them, and that to more Advantage then now can, and yet to ſell ſo cheap, that ſhe would be enabled to cope with the whole World in Woollen Goods, therefore hope for ſuch a Redreſs the Wiſdom of a *Britiſh* Parliament may think needful.

N. B. As Dying and fitting white Woollen Goods for Exportation, does on an Avarage coſt 50 *per Cent.* preventing ſuch Goods being exported white (that is not worn ſo) would greatly add to the Labour of the *Engliſh* Poor and Trade in general.

By Way of Supplement;

'Tis

QUery'd, *If the* Engliſh *Woollen Trade for Exportation, will not decline ſo long as her Rivals are ſupply'd with Wool from* Ireland, *and if 'tis poſſible to prevent the running of the Wool, if contrary to the Intereſt of* Ireland?

Quer. *Altho'* England's *Rivals have Wool grown, yet ſo little that is adapted to the making neat Goods, can they rival* England *in any Quantity of Goods, without either* Engliſh *or* Iriſh *Wool to work up with it?*

Quer.

Quer. *Is it not in the Power of a* Britiſh *Parliament to make a Law, that would abſolutely put a full Stop to the running of the* Iriſh *Wool, Yarn, and Woollen Goods, and make it* Ireland's *Intereſt to aſſiſt in executing it?*

Quer. *As the Laws now in Force, does allow* Ireland *no other Market than* England, *for ſuch Wool and Yarn their own home Conſumption does not want, would not all that is now run, if not run, be exported to* England?

Quer. *As every ten Pounds worth of Wool manufactured in* England, *does give a Profit of fifty Pounds to* England, *as Money earnt, beſide the Gains thereby, by Trade in general, Is not then every ten Pounds worth of Wool run out of* Ireland, *that otherwiſe would be manufactured in* England, *ſo many fifty Pounds Loſs to* England; *and as* England's *Rivals are enabled, by the Wool run, to work up double the Quantity of their own with it, Is it not ſo many hundred and fifty Pounds Loſs to* England, *as Money not earnt, and alſo the ſelling of twenty Pounds worth of Wool Loſs to our* Engliſh *Farmers and Wool-Staplers; and the real Cauſe of the great Decay on our Trade, and low Price on our Wool?*

Quer. *As* England's *Rivals can and do work cheaper than* England, *Is it not* England's *abſolute Intereſt to find Means to make their Goods cheaper, as well as to continue in their Neatneſs and Goodneſs, as a ſure Means to ſecure and enlarge their Trade?*

Quer. *As Intereſt governs all People and Kingdoms, and 'tis the preſent Intereſt of* Ireland *to run all her Wool rather than ſell to* England, *and* England's *abſolute Intereſt that none be run; and as no Law will prevent its being run but what is executed in* Ireland, *Is it not* England's *general Intereſt to make it* Ireland's *Intereſt to become ſubſervient to the Intereſt of* England *with her Wool?*

Quer. *As 'tis ſo much the Intereſt of* England, *in order to reſtore her Trade, to make her Goods cheaper, Is it not her abſolute Intereſt to turn the low Labour of the* Iriſh *Poor in her Favour; eſpecially as great Numbers of them do now earn their Bread by aſſiſting the Clandeſtine Traders, either in fitting for, and running it, or manufacturing Woollen Goods for running.*

Quer.

Quer. *If 'tis not* England's *Intereſt as a Trading Kingdom; rather than have ſuch powerful Rivals (not knowing the Event) to entertain ſome favourable Thought of* Ireland *as a Trading Kingdom, as to her Wool, and good Policy in* England *to employ thoſe* Iriſh *Poor, in Spining up into White Yarn a Part of the Wool that would be prevented being run, as thereby the* Engliſh *Manufacturer will be enabled to cope with their Rivals in Price; and by each ten Pounds worth of Wool being prevented being run, if* Ireland *earn ſix Pounds,* England's *Poor would earn* 144 *Pounds more than now they do, or otherwiſe can.*

Negative

Quer. *If taking off the Duty on the* Iriſh *Wool and Yarn, would not greatly turn the preſent Intereſt of* Ireland, *both as to her Tradeſmen and Poor, in* England's *Favour, as the Advantage in Price would be their Gains, as the Wool will not be cheaper to* England.

Quer. *Altho' taking off the ſaid Duty, may not ſet the Advantange of the* Iriſh *Tradeſmen in Selling to* England, *or to her Rivals, on a Par, will it not make them think it their Intereſt, if not to aſſiſt, yet not moleſt, ſuch that may be appointed to execute ſuch a Law that will, by ſtriking at the Root, abſolutely put a Stop to running their Wool, Yarn, and Woollen Goods, as pointing out the Tranſgreſſor, if any it run.*

Quer. *As the Duty on the* Iriſh *Wool is Part of the* Iriſh *Civil Liſt, Is it not* England's *Intereſt, rather than not have it took off, to find Means to make it Good? Should* England *give a Bounty for all imported,* England's *Rivals would ſee it their Intereſt to give a much greater, will not then making it* Ireland's *as 'tis* England's *Intereſt to execute ſuch a Law, be an abſolute Means of ſecuring and enlarging the* Engliſh *Woollen Trade, and Trade in general; as Experience declares, no Law will effect it, but ſuch as is executed in* Ireland, *and is her Intereſt.*